

YOUR CITY YOUR DAY

ADOPT



GINGER COLOURED KITTENS: Many ginger-coloured kittens (orange striped) are looking for loving homes. They are of Indian breed, cute, kitty-litter toilet trained, healthy. We are looking for loving homes for them who will care for them throughout their lives. Kittens are best adopted in pairs and provide love, entertainment and happiness will always be part of your home. **Contact:** 9987085350 to



adopt. Tang is a 4-5 week old ginger-coloured female kitten up for adoption. Many ginger-coloured kittens (orange striped) are available. They are of Indian breed, cute, kitty-litter toilet trained, healthy. We are looking for loving homes for them who will care for them throughout their lives. Kittens are best adopted in pairs and provide love, entertainment and



happiness. Call 9987085350 to adopt. Popeye is a cuddly one month old pup of Indian breed (Please do not call for breeds). He is clean, deflead, dewormed and very healthy. With more awareness, more people are adopting Indian breeds and doing a good deed.



BMC's anti-plastic drive loses steam

Guards deny entry only to those who flaunt their polybags, while others sneak in with it at will

Team DNA

The anti-plastic drive launched by the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) seems to have lost its steam. Though the civic body is committed to implement the new plastic waste (management and handling) rule, 2011, in its letter and spirit, an audit carried out by DNA reporters has revealed otherwise. The drive seems to be losing its steam due to half-hearted execution of the law.

The BMC has launched the campaign to keep the civic body premises free of plastic waste.

Rajendra Bhosale, deputy municipal commissioner (special), said the civic administration has started the drive aggressively at all levels. "But the purpose of making the civic buildings free of plastic is an endeavour to reduce plastic waste from the doorstep. So we have started denying entry to people carrying plastic bags," said Bhosale.

Squad of nuisance detectors were installed at all civic buildings. "If anyone throws plastic bags outside the building to get an easy entry, s/he will be fined," Bhosale said, adding that a circular has been sent to all the octroi nakas asking them to seize stocks of plastic carry-bags having thickness less than 50 microns and size less than 8x12 inches.

Here's what DNA found in the audit carried out at several ward offices across the city:

BMC HEADQUARTERS:

At the BMC headquarters, each and every bag of visitors were scanned and checked by the security personnel. The security staff checked the bag of DNA reporter and removed the polythene bags from the backpack and asked to throw it in the dust-bin.

A WARD OFFICE, FORT:

Vigilant security guards promptly asked the reporter to dispose the plastic bag. When requested that if the plastic bag could be kept at the entrance and taken back, the security guards politely but firmly refused to allow the same.

E WARD OFFICE, BYCULLA:

The building comprises ward office, offices of building proposals department (city) and chief fire officer's office (fire brigade). While

Puneet Chandhok. DNA



(Clockwise from top): Guards stop a DNA reporter with a plastic bag at the H East ward office in Santa Cruz; a guard tears a polybag at the T Ward office in Mulund; polybags are a strict no-no at A Ward

visitors carrying plastic bags in hands were stopped at the gates, the security officers did not check the bags. A few visitors easily sneaked in with plastic bags. When the security guards were alerted that they were being photographed, all the staffers began scanning the plastic bags of visitors and refused them entry to the ward office building.

G-NORTH WARD:

Security staffs were on their toes to check each and every visitor and also civic staff. More than 10 civic staffers were not allowed to enter with the plastic bags, even though it led to heated arguments between the staff and the security personnel.

K WEST WARD:

Though security guards were present at the entry gates, nobody checked the DNA reporter's bag nor did they check people roaming around with plastic bags in office. The DNA reporter went inside the ward office on first and second floor (where ward officer's cabin located) but nobody bothered about plastic bags.

H WEST: The security officials checked every citizen visiting the ward office and took the bags from them. But the bags were returned. "We are returning the bags as many citizens have requested us to return

saying they are using it due to rain," said a security official.

H EAST: Security officials took away plastic bags from the visitors. "We took the plastic bags from citizens. If anybody refuses to give it us, we don't allow them to enter the premises," said a security official.

T WARD: Security personnel confiscated plastic bags from the visitors. "It is almost a week that we have been confiscating plastic bags. We are doing our job as per orders from higher authorities. We confiscate bags and tear them apart before disposing it," a security official said. A local resident, one of the visitors to the office on Monday, welcomed the move.

N WARD: Visitors were not allowed to enter the office with plastic bags.

M WEST WARD, CHEMBUR: Anyone with a plastic bag, irrespective of its thickness, could easily sneak in and out of the office. "This shows how serious the civic men are about the instructions given to them by their higher authorities. Anyways, it is just a populist announcement that the corporation has made," Raj Kumar Sharma, chief of a local ALM, said.

Shraddha Bhargava. DNA



Rajendra Gawankar



CAMPAIGN TRAIL

In last two days, the BMC has seized 855kg of plastic bags with thickness less than 50 micron. On Sunday, the BMC officials seized 500kg plastic bags from Dahisar octroi plaza. On Monday, the BMC officials raided a godown in Indira Nagar on Andheri-Kurla Road and seized plastic bags of 355kg

The BMC has seized 2,210 kg plastic bags in 2,645 cases between June 18 and July 6

The civic body has also collected a fine of Rs1.26 lakh

cityedit

Plastic resolve

The drive of the municipal corporation against the use of plastic carry-bags within its premises across Greater Mumbai, while laudable, may well be a case of taking a good idea to unnecessary extremes.

When the city's administration decided to ban plastic bags of thickness less than 20 microns in the aftermath of the unprecedented flood of July 26, 2005, it was a move that was welcomed by almost everyone except some of the bag manufacturers and most of the roadside vendors. The BMC and the state government were, however, firm in their resolve and the ban on thin plastic bags was implemented reasonably successfully. Thereafter, the corporation decreed that bags less than 50 microns thick would not be allowed in the city and even that order was implemented to a large measure of success.

In both cases, public opinion was with the civic authorities. After all, the city had already seen in 2005 what the unbridled use of plastic bags could lead to, and no one was keen for a re-run of clogged drains and flooded houses.

There is, however, no doubt that plastic bags serve a purpose, particularly in a country like India that has a four-month monsoon that sees heavy rainfall. Plastics offer a cheap and handy alternative to expensive water-proof bags and it is but natural that people will take recourse to polythene bags in the rains, particularly visitors to government offices, who often have to carry documents that are crucial for their lives and livelihoods. Though some cities in other parts of the world may have banned plastic bags entirely, that may not be an option for us in India. The more intelligent option would be to continue to regulate their production and use and to encourage reuse and recycling. Meanwhile, the corporation's officials should look at the continuing use of ultra-thin polythene bags by some street-side vendors. The ban on thin bags, while successful, isn't total yet.

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